

shield reckless and negligent gun dealers from public scrutiny and weaken the BATFE's oversight and enforcement authority.

INCREASING MILITARY PAY CATEGORIES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I have joined Senator DASCHLE in introducing a bill that would make permanent the increases in imminent danger pay and family separation allowance passed by Congress in the Fiscal Year 03 Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act.

Last spring, when the Senate considered the Budget Resolution, it passed, by a vote of 100 to 0, an amendment I offered with Senator LANDRIEU that would have allowed for \$1 billion to cover the increase in these special pay categories.

Then, when the Senate considered the Fiscal Year 2003 Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act, it unanimously accepted an amendment I offered with Senator STEVENS and Senator INOUE, increasing these pay categories for the remainder of the fiscal year.

The amendment we offered to the Supplemental sunset these pay increased, not because we wished to end them, but simply to allow the Armed Services Committee—the Committee of jurisdiction—to increase these pay levels in the Fiscal Year 2004 Defense Authorization bill, which it did.

Now—when soldiers are dying in Iraq and military families have been separated for many months—we hear that the Administration wishes to cut these pay increases in the Conference Committee.

The Statement of Administration Policy on the House version of the bill objects to the provision increasing both pay categories, saying it would “divert resources unnecessarily.” The statement on the Senate bill only objects to the increase in Family Separation Allowance.

When confronted with questions about why the Administration wanted to reduce these pay categories, Defense Department spokesman, Under Secretary David Chu, came up with the classic Washington non-denial denial. On August 14, Chu said: “I’d just like very quickly to put to rest what I understand has been a burgeoning rumor that somehow we are going to reduce compensation for those serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. That is not true. . . .”

“What I think you’re pointing to is one piece of very thick technical appeal document that speaks to the question do we want to extend the language Congress used in the Family Separation Allowance and Imminent Danger Pay statutes. And no, we don’t think we need to extend that language. That’s a different statement from are we going to reduce compensation for those in Iraq and Afghanistan . . .”

What do these statements mean?

Evidently the administration wants to claim that it will keep compensation the same for those serving in Iraq and Afghanistan through other pay categories, but do indeed intend to roll back the increases to imminent danger pay and family separation allowance.

This means that a soldier getting shot at fighting the war on terrorism in Yemen or the Philippines would receive less money than one who is similarly risking his or her life in Iraq. This means that a family bearing huge costs because of burdensome, long-term deployments would only be helped if the service member is deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan, but not if that same service member is deployed anywhere else in the world.

It is unfair to cut funding intended to help military families that are bearing the costs of far-flung U.S. deployments. It is unacceptable that imminent danger would be worth less in one combat zone than in another.

The bill we introduce today makes a clear statement that these pay categories should be increased permanently and should not be cut in conference.

Until these pay levels were increased in the Supplemental, an American soldier, sailor, airman, or Marine who put his or her life on the line in imminent danger only received an extra \$150 per month. My amendment increased that amount to \$225 per month—still only an acknowledgment of their courage, but an increase nonetheless.

Prior to the increase in the supplemental appropriations bill, family separation had been only \$100 per month. We succeeded in raising it to \$250 per month. These increases are only part of a normal progression of increases—for example, in 1965, imminent danger pay was \$55; \$100 in 1985, and raised to \$150 in 1991. Family separation allowance was \$30 in 1970, \$60 in 1985, \$75 in 1991, and \$100 in 1997.

Family separation allowance was originally intended to pay for things that the deployed service member would have done, like cut the grass, that the spouse may then have had to hire someone to do. That may well have been appropriate in the past, but now most families have two working spouses—sometimes two working military spouses—and the absence of one or both parent may add huge child care costs that even the increased rate is unlikely to cover.

Military spouses sometimes find that they must give up their jobs or curtail their working hours in order to take up the family responsibilities that otherwise would have been shared by the missing spouse.

Example of increased costs that families may incur when military personnel are deployed, in addition to increased child care costs include: health care costs not covered by TRICARE, for example, the cost of counseling for children having a difficult time with their parents’ deployment; costs for the family of an activated Reservist or

National Guard member to travel to mobilization briefings, which may be in another state; various communication and information-gathering costs.

I would like to quote for the RECORD from an article that appeared in *The Washington Post* on April 11, 2003, entitled “Military Families Turn to Aid Groups,” that outlines how military families have had to rely on private aid organizations to help them when their spouses are deployed. The article highlights the case of one mother, Michele Mignosa and says:

The last 18 months have brought one mishap or another to Michelle Mignosa. Her husband, Kevin, is an Air Force reservist who since Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks has been away from their Lancaster, Calif., home almost as much as he’s been there. First, there were the out-of-state trips to provide airport security. Then he was deployed to Turkey for 2½ months last spring. Now he’s in Greece with an air-refueling unit . . . And while he has been gone, the problems have piled up at home . . . Strapped for cash since giving up her part-time job because of Kevin’s frequent far-off postings, she didn’t know where the money would come from to resolve yet another problem.

I applaud the efforts of private aid groups to help military families, but I believe that it is the duty of the U.S. Government to cover more of the costs incurred because of military deployments. It should not matter to which country the service member is deployed. Cuts must not be made to funds helping military families that are bearing the costs of war, homeland security, and US military commitments abroad.

To say that pay will not decrease to those serving in Iraq or Afghanistan is ignoring the truth—rolling back family separation allowance from \$250 per month to \$100 per month will cost our military families and could be especially painful those living on the edge.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill that Senator DASCHLE and I have introduced and make a strong statement to the Defense Department that Congress will not stand for cutting imminent danger pay and family separation allowance.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN HONOR OF JOHNNY CASH

• Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the resolution to honor a great singer, a great songwriter, a great American, a man who truly lived the American Dream. J.R. Cash, otherwise known as “the man in black,” Johnny Cash, captivated all those who listened during a career that spanned four decades. The man in black was a man who embodied and lived the spirit of working class America and transformed that spirit into song. I speak today to honor the life and work of this Arkansas native and music legend, and I would like to thank the Senator from Tennessee, Mr. ALEXANDER, for his resolution and kind words.

A native of Kingsland and Dyess, AR, Mr. Cash was respected and idolized by many in my State. It is always a tragedy to lose a native son, but I know the people of Arkansas will especially mourn the loss of Mr. Cash, who passed away last Friday at the age of 71.

Johnny Cash's life reads much like that of many Arkansas born during the dark and dreary days of the Depression. He was born to a family of sharecropper in Kingsland, February 26, 1932, a small town in South Arkansas not far from where my own father was born.

When he was 3, his family moved to Dyess, AR—a farming colony established by Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal to help lift displaced farming families out of the Depression and the crushing poverty that still permeates a large part of the Delta soil. The Cash's were especially poor. A neighbor, Earl Condra of Harrisburg, who knew the plight of many families of the region once said, "We were poor, but the Cash's were about as poor as you could get."

No one in the family escaped working on the farm. By the time he was 6, Cash was carrying water to workers in the field. By 10 he working almost a full day in the cotton fields, from, as he said, "can 'til can't". When he was 12, his 14-year-old brother, whom young Johnny idolized, was killed in a saw accident while sawing oak logs into fence posts for the family farm. That same year, Cash's father told him he had reached "the age of accountability . . . you're accountable as a man, to yourself and to others."

For Cash, it seemed the only escape from his hard life was through music. After a long, hard day picking cotton in the fields, his family would often sit on their front porch and sing.

"I remember when I was a lad, times were hard and things were bad. But there's a silver lining behind every cloud. Just four the number of people, that's all we were, trying to make a living out of black land dirt. But we'd get together in a family circle singin' loud. Daddy sang bass, Momma sang tenor, me and little brother would join right in there. Singin' seems to help a troubled soul. One of these days, and it won't be long, I'll rejoin them in a song. I'm going to join the family circle at the throne," he recalled in one of his songs.

Indeed, by the age of 12, Cash was performing songs on the radio in Blytheville, AR.

Although he was one of few to graduate high school in post-Depression Arkansas, Cash knew his future lay in music.

"I think the first time I knew what I wanted to do with my life was when I was about 4 years old. I was listening to an old Victrola, playing a railroad song . . . I thought it was the most wonderful, amazing thing that I'd ever seen. That you could take this piece of wax and music would come out of that box. From that day on, I wanted to sing on the radio," he reminisced in a 1993 interview.

The quote under his picture in the 1950 Dyess Senior High School yearbook read, "Be a live wire and you won't get stepped on."

Within months of his graduation he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and was assigned to Landsberg, Germany, where he was a radio intercept operator tasked with intercepting Soviet Morse Code. And it was also in Germany that he learned to play the guitar.

After his discharge from the Air Force in 1954, Cash moved to Memphis, TN, to take a job as an appliance salesman and to attend broadcasting school through the G.I. bill.

It was in Memphis where Johnny Cash would get his chance to sing to great audiences. After being turned away on numerous occasions, Johnny woke early one morning and went to the Memphis office of the famous Sun Records to meet Sam Phillips and he arrived for work. After a brief session, Mr. Phillips told Johnny to return the next day with a band. From that day forward, Johnny Cash reigned as the undisputed king of the downtrodden poor, a working man's savior in song.

Johnny Cash sang with a scowl of determination. The darkness of the songs he sang was only brightened by the hope of the audiences he addressed. That this man, this legend, this poor kid from Arkansas, could succeed on the grandest scale by putting his experiences and his emotions into song, gave the poorest sharecropper and the most oppressed worker that hope. There are no parameters in song. No boundaries, no borders, no confinements. For in a song, a man may truly express the deep well of thought not to be expressed in polite society. Song crisscrosses through time with an ease and a fluidity that gives true freedom to those who are not free, whether they are beholden to debt, their family, society or their own shortcomings. Johnny Cash understood the nature of song like few before or after. He understood its power over people. He understood the hope it could give, the happiness it could bestow, the sorrow it could impart. He knew these things about music. He used this understanding to give voice to those that had none.

As he said in explaining his propensity to wear black clothes, "I tried to speak for the voices that were ignored or even suppressed by the entertainment media, not to mention the political and education establishments." As he put it, black clothes symbolized the dispossessed people of the world.

Johnny Cash achieved a level of success equal to that of the Beatles and Elvis. The legacy he left will be a lasting one in country and rock music. From jazz to blues to country music, to the rock and roll that was nurtured in its early years in the juke joints of the Delta South and the urban ghettos of the north, Johnny Cash contributed his own particular interpretation to this musical legacy: one that will forever be enshrined in the memories of his

friends, colleagues, and thousands of fans.

Johnny Cash sold more records than anyone in the world in 1967. He was so popular that he had his own ABC television series. He won eleven Grammys and was the youngest person ever inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame. He has also been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, has been honored with a Kennedy Center Award, and has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. President Bush honored him with the National Medal of the Arts this past April.

Despite all of the professional accomplishments and accolades, I think Mr. Cash would rather us celebrate his life in terms of the people he touched with his music and his philanthropic work. In addition to his music, Mr. Cash endowed a burn research center, campaigned for prison reform, counseled former inmates transitioning to society, and donated and worked for the Mental Health association, Home for Autistic children, Refugees for Battered Women, the American Cancer Society, YWCA, and the Humane Society, among others.

Johnny Cash rose from nothing to everything on the strength of an iron will, gritty self-determination, and an unflappable faith in God, his family, and his music. Nothing he earned in his life came at the expense of others. Yet all he gave to all. Johnny Cash learned from his mistakes and ascended to a level higher than those who preceded him. He taught us to learn from our mistakes. He taught us to never give up, that the dreams of a small boy on a small farm in a small town can be big, and that they can come true. He taught us how to be free through the words and melody of a song. The lessons from his music are applicable today and will be for generations to come. Nothing captures the imagination of the heart like a great song. Mr. Cash captured the hearts of many. And his song will be missed. ●

RECOGNIZING DR. CYNTHIA HALDENBY TYSON

● Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, today I recognize Dr. Cynthia Tyson, who retired this year from her position as president of Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, VA.

Dr. Tyson was born and raised in England, where she received both her bachelor's and master's degrees, as well as her Ph.D. She first came to the United States as a Fulbright scholar, and has worked in higher education as both a lecturer and an administrator.

During her 18-year tenure at Mary Baldwin College, she was the active force behind that school's renaissance into a nationally renowned women's liberal arts college. From the beginning of her tenure in 1985 to this day, Mary Baldwin College has more than doubled its enrollment, with almost 2,200 students attending 6 locations throughout Virginia. The college has